

Supervisor Burke Hosts 8th Annual "Fishing in the City" Party

More than 400 foster children, ages 7 to 14 years, and nearly 200 volunteers converged on the lake at Kenneth Hahn Park for Supervisor Yvonne Brathwaite Burke's 8th annual "Fishing in the City" party. Buses transporting the children began arriving in the park at 9:30 a.m., where volunteers were already hard at work assembling fishing poles and preparing bait.

"Fishing in the City" makes it possible for inner city children to have the experience of fishing, learning park etiquette and the importance of conserving our natural resources," Burke said. "Most of these children have never had the opportunity to enjoy a great recreational facility such as Kenneth Hahn Park."

Celebrity guests at the event were television's Judge Mablean Ephriam and screenwriter Antwone Fisher, subject of the movie "The Antwone Fisher Story" and a former foster child.

The Fish and Game Commission stocked the lake with catfish, and provided fishing poles. Volunteers from the Department of Parks and Recreation, County Fire Department, Sheriff's Department, and a local



Supervisor Burke posed with a young guest at the Fishing in the City party with the lake in the background.

recovery home helped the children bait hooks, cast their lines, and clean and pack their fish.

During the day, children excitedly cast their lines into the lake. Those who got a bite on their line were helped by volunteers to reel in their catches. By 3 p.m., as the children climbed into buses to go back home, hundreds of them were carrying the fish they caught, wrapped in ice in Ziploc bags.

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Employee of the Month Internal Services Department's Rita Powell

Rita Powell has been with the County of Los Angeles for 25 years. She first began working as a clerk in the Mechanical Department's Procurement Division, and in 1998, she qualified as a Stationary Engineer Helper and now works for the Internal Services Department (ISD) Energy Management Division in the Power Plant Section. Powell currently works at the Los Angeles Civic Center Co-Generation facility where she is responsible for the maintenance and operation of various pieces of equipment, including boilers, turbines,

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EVENT CALENDAR

Notice:

The Annual Boss-Secretary Luncheon has been changed to Wednesday, October 29. For further information, please contact Christi Starks at (562) 908-8605.

Descanso Gardens

1418 Descanso Dr. La Canada Flintridge
(818) 949-4200

www.descanso.com

Sept 26 - Music and Moonlight: Indigo Girls

Oct 4 - Wedding Site Walking Tour

Oct 12 - Jon Sherman Concert

Oct 18-19 - Rose Show

Oct 25-26 - Pumpkin Parade

The Ford Amphitheatre

2580 Cahuenga Blvd East, Hollywood
(323) 461-3673

www.fordamphitheatre.com

Sept 26 - Alvaro Torres

Sept 27 - BIG! WORLD! FUN! Family Series:
Troubadour Theatre Company: "Funky Punks
go to Hollywood." 10 a.m.

Sept 27 - Boleros Under The Stars: Trio Los Ponchos.

Sept 28 - Celebration Theatre & Gay Men's Chorus of
L.A.: Pinafore!

Oct 4 - Lalo Guerrero

Oct 10 - Praxis Project: Dance

Oct 11 - Chris Montez

Hollywood Bowl

2301 North Highland Ave., Hollywood 90078
(323) 850-2000

www.hollywoodbowl.com

Sept 27 - James Brown: Seven Decades of Funk

Los Angeles County Botanic Garden (Arboretum)

301 N. Baldwin Avenue, Arcadia
(626) 821-3222

www.arboretum.org

Oct 12 - Gourd Fair

Oct 18-19 - Winter Cactus Show & Sale

Oct 21 - Remarkable Trees of the World

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LACERA Election Results

At its meeting of August 19, the Board of Supervisors approved the results of the July 22 elections for the Los Angeles County Employees Retirement Association. The Board declared Herman B. Santos elected as the Third Member, Board of Investments and Simon S. Russin elected as the Third Member, Board of Retirement.

Fifth Annual Discover Marina del Rey Day

Beaches and Harbors presents family fun with inflatable games; boat races; live music; and safety, environmental and health demonstrations.

Sunday, October 12, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Burton Chace Park,

13650 Mindanao Way, Marina del Rey.

For more information, please contact
(310) 305-9545 or visit
www.beaches.co.la.ca.us



Articles and other submissions to the County Digest may be edited or otherwise altered for clarity.

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Available online at: hr.co.la.ca.us

WeTip WELFARE FRAUD
1-800-87-FRAUD

Supervisor Molina Improves Services for Seniors

Seniors from the First District benefitted from important educational forums provided by Supervisor Gloria Molina this summer.

Smarter Seniors Forum

Earlier this summer, Supervisor Molina, along with the Department of Consumer Affairs, spent a morning at the Roosevelt Park Senior Center educating seniors via a “Smarter Seniors Forum” on how to protect themselves from consumer scams that target their population.

“Unfortunately, I receive plenty of calls from First District constituents who are either elderly and have been victimized by a consumer scam or those who are middle-aged and whose parents have been targeted,” Molina explained. “The County of Los Angeles sponsors two ‘Smarter Senior Forums’ in each supervisorial district annually to educate our elderly population on how to defend themselves against unscrupulous consumer con artists who will trick them into parting with their life savings.”

At the forum, seniors learned about real estate planning, conservatorships, family/friend/caregiver abuses, real estate fraud, insurance issues, telemarketing and charity fraud, identity theft, and the special property tax programs for seniors. Staff from the Los Angeles County Department of Consumer Affairs, Sheriff’s Department, Treasurer and Tax Collector, Department of Mental Health—Office of the Public Guardian, and Community and Senior Services/Adult Protective Services were on hand to answer questions in English and Spanish. Staff from the Los Angeles County Bar Association—Elder Law Section and the State of California Department of Insurance were also in attendance.

Seniors on the Move

Supervisor Molina, along with the Los Angeles County Commission on Aging, launched the

County’s first “Seniors on the Move” program which was designed to familiarize seniors with public transportation options they can use when the time comes for them to stop driving their own cars.

“Retaining control over when, where, and how to get around is an important part of self-determination,” Molina concluded. “The ‘Seniors on the Move’ program will help our elderly population access available transportation options and thus improve their quality of life through greater mobility, independence, and freedom.”

The seniors who attended received a free one-month pass to ride any public transportation system in the County of Los Angeles and took a field trip to the Metro Blue Line’s Florence Station.

“It can be difficult for our elderly population to continue living their everyday lives once they can no longer drive,” Commission on Aging Transportation Chair, Nadia Powers said. “The ‘Seniors on the Move’ program helps older adults make a smooth transition to a public transportation-based lifestyle.”



First District seniors participating in the “Seniors on the Move” program at Florence Metro Blue Line Station.

SEPTEMBER RETIREES

Congratulations to the following employees who are joining the ranks of the retired after 30 or more years of service to the people of the County of Los Angeles:

ASSESSOR: Harold J. Siegel

AUDITOR - CONTROLLER: Morton D. Carson

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS: Maria Almaguer, Darlene Hudson

CHILD SUPPORT SERVICES: Betty De Cruz, Susan L. Haven, Roysa L. Rosa

CHILDREN & FAMILY SERVICES: Beneth L. Cain

DISTRICT ATTORNEY: Basilisa C. Bigornia, Dale E. Cutler, Albert H. MacKenzie, Brian D. O'Reilly

FIRE: Richard A. Brady

HEALTH SERVICES: Dixie L. Bonapart, Patsy A. Denman, Roshan Malva, Richard Marquez, Rosa L. Martinez, Norman T. Matsuoka, Josephine Pryor, Geraldine K. Radman

INTERNAL SERVICES: Amos Henderson

MENTAL HEALTH: Bernice Young

PROBATION: Judith Bloch, Barbara A. Connary, Richard Fort, Johnny E. Hopson, Barbara A. Robinson-Kno

PUBLIC SOCIAL SERVICES: Mildred L. Hackett, Frederic A. Ramos, Altha M. Turner

PUBLIC WORKS: John G. Loos

SHERIFF: Donald H. Bear, Booker A. Black Jr., Robert J. Bouffard, Annie J. Butler, Donald L. Coburn, Larry A. Crookshanks, Stephen T. Gattis, Thomas W. James, John P. Kalita, Harry L. Marco, John S. Pastor, Ronald F. Sanner, Jerry L. Shultz, Jerry L. Spain, Arthur F. Valenzuela

SUPERIOR COURT: Lawrence Cisneros, Rita Tucker

TREASURER & TAX COLLECTOR: Betty J. Crowe

Congratulations to the following employees who are joining the ranks of the retired after 25 or more years of service to the people of the County of Los Angeles:

ART MUSEUM: Alexander G. Barlahan

CHILD SUPPORT SERVICES: Joyce C. Brown, Sila F. Portela

CHILDREN & FAMILY SERVICES: Katherine L. McDuffie
COUNTY COUNSEL: Mary C. Gunn

FIRE: Ralph E. Mailloux, James M. Odling, Michael A. Wilkinson

HEALTH SERVICES: Dina A. Arca, Grace Blas, Rosie Bojorquez, Carolyn Chadwick, Judith Cox, Giobaldo N. Diaz, Luis M. Gomez, Lady G. Gonzalez, Marlene J. Kupetz, Harvey D. La Tourette, Thelma M. McDonald, Tomas Orosco, Bobbie J. Sanders, Nilda Santiago, Evelyn Slepicoff

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refrigeration machines, pumps and jet engines. Her procurement background has been useful in expediting the purchase of critical parts and materials,

which have been valuable in meeting service requirements. These actions were accomplished in addition to her assigned duties and have greatly enhanced her effectiveness, as well as the efficiency of the plant's operation.

Powell is also a youth mentor and has dedicated a large portion of her time to ISD's Youth Career Development Program. This is a program designed to provide emancipated foster youth with employment training. As a mentor, Powell assists young people by setting an example, listening, and providing the benefit of her experience and success in the work place. Through her guidance and commitment, two former foster youth are now second-year apprentices in the Stationary Engineer trade. Powell has made her time available to work with and counsel various young women working for ISD.

When asked what is the most fulfilling aspect of her job, Powell simply stated, "Getting the job done." She has been consistently described as one of the most-liked employees in her work group and tries to maintain a positive workplace environment.

Powell serves the community by volunteering at her children's elementary school and feeding the homeless through her church, United Baptist, in San Bernardino. Powell also enhances her daughters' musical education by taking them, as well as other children, to musical recitals.

Rita Powell and her husband Gary have three daughters, Tyler, 14; Tayler, 12; and Tyrese, 11.



WHAT'S GOING ON IN THE THIRD DISTRICT SUPERVISOR ZEV YAROSLAVSKY

Board Approves County Purchase of Secret Valley Open Space in Santa Monica Mountains

Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky has announced Board approval to purchase nearly 42 acres of open space in the Secret Valley area of the Santa Monica Mountains, located ½ mile north of Calabasas Peak, between Mulholland Highway and Old Topanga Canyon Road. Yaroslavsky said the purchase continues a longstanding project to acquire developable land in the Calabasas-Cold Creek Trail area, which links to 23 other trails in the Santa Monica Mountains. The effort helps preserve open space and sensitive riparian and wildlife habitat while expanding passive recreational opportunities for County residents and visitors. The County purchased the property in partnership with the Mountains Restoration Trust (MRT), a private California nonprofit public benefit agency established in 1981 to help protect Santa Monica Mountains wilderness areas in part by acquiring and reselling undeveloped property to public parks agencies. Because of its expertise and experience in wilderness management, the MRT has agreed to manage the property on the County's behalf. For maps of the site and other information, please visit <http://lacounty.info/bos/sop/supdocs/6612.pdf>.

Yaroslavsky Urges County Voters to “Touch the Future” with Touchscreen Voting



Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky reminds all County residents that any County-registered voter is eligible to vote in the upcoming special election on October 7 at any one of 12 Touchscreen Early Voting Sites. The

sites will be open from September 24 through October 3, including Saturday and Sunday. Please visit <http://lavote.net/pdf/earlyvoting.pdf> for detailed information on locations and operating hours. For additional information on the election, please visit <http://lavote.net/voter/special2003.htm>.

Yaroslavsky Wins Approval to Expand Domestic Partner Benefits

On Tuesday, August 26, Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky won Board approval for his proposal to expand benefits available to domestic partners of County employees. Yaroslavsky's motion immediately extends survivors' pension benefits to domestic partners of retired County employees, with

additional benefits to be negotiated in the future such as expanded bereavement leave, life and disability insurance, COBRA (extended post-employment group health coverage), and family medical leave.

Efforts Advance for Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy to Acquire and Preserve Ahmanson Ranch

On Monday, August 25, the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy Board approved a package of measures aimed at setting the stage for the eventual purchase and preservation of 2773 acres of open space currently slated for potential development as the Ahmanson Ranch Project. Environmentalists and parkland advocates have long sought to protect the Ahmanson Ranch property, which includes rare flora and fauna habitats, as well as wetlands, canyons, seasonal waterfalls, mountains and an upland pasture. Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky and other local elected officials attended the hearing, testified, or wrote letters in support of the proposal to preserve the site as open space. To learn more about the issue, please visit www.ahmansonland.com/news.html for the project developer's viewpoint, and www.ahmanson.org for the environmental preservationist perspective.

Corral Canyon Trailhead Opens

Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky has announced the opening of a new state-of-the-art trailhead facility off the Pacific Coast Highway leading into Corral Canyon. Located on Pacific Coast Highway between Malibu Canyon Road and Kanan Dune Road, the Corral Canyon trailhead provides visitors parking, picnic areas, restrooms, educational displays, sitting benches, and a hiking trail into the last undeveloped coastal canyon in Los Angeles County. Additionally, the new trailhead allows seasonal access to Los Angeles County-operated Dan Blocker State Beach. There is also an MTA bus stop at the entrance to the facility. For additional information, please visit www.ceres.ca.gov/smmc/pressrelease/corralcanyon.pdf.

Yaroslavsky Urges County Beachgoers to “Watch the Water” On-line For the Latest Beach Information

Supervisor Yaroslavsky is urging all beachgoers to take advantage of an exciting new service now available on-line to monitor coastal surf and weather conditions at Southland beaches. Please visit, <http://watchthewater.co.la.ca.us> for the latest information to ensure that your trip to the beach will be safe and fun.

ENRICHING LIVES

GOLDEN ANNIVERSARY

Carlys Williams Honored for Fifty Years of County Service



Joining Carlys Williams are (from left to right) Marcia Benitez, Acting Human Services Administrator II; Anita Keyes-Spenser, Admin Services Manager III; Michelle Callahan, Division Chief; Bryce Yokomizo, Director of DPSS; Supervisor Yvonne Brathwaite Burke; Susan Kerr, then Assistant Director of DPSS and Carlys Williams' granddaughter Shonna.

The Department of Public Social Services (DPSS) is pleased to recognize its longest serving employee, Carlys Williams, who on July 1 was honored with a scroll from the Board of Supervisors commemorating her 50 years of County service.

Williams began her County career with the Auditor-Controller's Office in June 1953, right after graduating from high school. In 1956, she joined the Department of Public Social Services where she serves today as a computation clerk.

When asked why she has stayed with the County all these years, Williams responded, "It's a really good place to work!" Her managers describe her as a "very special person who performs her duties with a great sense of pride." One of her fondest memories throughout the years is meeting the late County Supervisor Kenneth Hahn as he toured a County facility.

Williams has truly experienced the growth and development of what county government has become today. She exemplifies civil service at its best with her commitment to serving the citizens of the County of Los Angeles for more than half a century.

Williams' favorite hobbies include sewing and knitting. She is also looking forward to her retirement next year when she plans to spend time with her five grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

Congratulations to Ms. Williams and best of luck in her upcoming retirement!



Transfer Opportunities Web Site

The Department of Human Resources is pleased to announce the implementation of the new Transfer Opportunities Web site (TOW). This Web site was developed as a resource for all County employees to inform them of potential lateral transfer opportunities in their department or in other County departments. It also serves as a recruiting tool for County departments by providing a site for posting vacancies and contact information.

While promotional opportunities continue to be available through the examination process, this site allows employees to indicate their interest in transfer opportunities at their current level. Employees are reminded that, according to Civil

Service Rule 15.03, to qualify for lateral transfer your current position and the position to which you will be laterally transferred must be of the same rank and salary and you must have demonstrated skills and aptitudes required in this new position.

The implementation of this new Web site is one initiative in the Countywide HR Strategic Plan and we encourage all employees to visit this new site at <http://jaintra.co.la.ca.us> and click on **Transfer Opportunities**. Please note that this is an Intranet Web site and is only accessible from County work sites.

Any questions should be directed to your department's Human Resources office.



County of Los Angeles VISION

Our ***purpose*** is to improve the quality of life in Los Angeles County by providing responsive, efficient and high quality public services that promote the self-sufficiency, well-being and prosperity of individuals, families, businesses and communities.

Our ***philosophy*** of teamwork and collaboration is anchored in our shared values:

- ◆ responsiveness
- ◆ professionalism
- ◆ accountability
- ◆ compassion
- ◆ integrity
- ◆ commitment
- ◆ a can-do attitude
- ◆ respect for diversity

Our ***position*** as the premiere organization for those working in the public interest is established by:

- ◆ a capability to undertake programs that have public value
- ◆ an aspiration to be recognized through our achievements as the model for civic innovation
- ◆ a pledge to always work to earn the public trust

Department of Mental Health's Response to the Tragedy at the Santa Monica Farmer's Market

In response to the July 16th tragedy at the Santa Monica Farmer's Market, the intervention of the mental health community was immediate and extensive. The Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health served as the mental health lead agency with the Service Area 5 District Chief, Robin Kay, Ph.D., coordinating disaster mental health services in collaboration with the American Red Cross. Within one hour after the disaster, the Department's Disaster Mental Health Coordinator, Barbara Cienfuegos, and Critical Incident Stress Debriefing Coordinator, Linda Boyd, began outreach efforts, and the local Service Area Disaster Plan was implemented.

A wide range of crisis services were provided at community sites, including the Farmer's Market location at Santa Monica's Third Street Promenade, and Santa Monica Red Cross headquarters. These services included:

- Crisis intervention for victims, witnesses, families and others affected by the tragedy
- Supportive counseling for those who had a pressing need to talk

- Outreach to local merchants who witnessed or were affected by the disaster
- Outreach to farmers at six farmers' markets held in three locations
- Special debriefings for farmers and agency personnel

In addition to providing mental health services, staff were able to offer the community much-needed information. Handouts informing people about locations for blood donation and organizations accepting financial contributions for victims of the disaster were developed and distributed. In all, approximately 1900 mental health encounters were provided over the 12 days following the tragedy. More than 90 staff from the Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health and Service Area 5 contract agencies participated in the effort. They were joined by approximately two dozen mental health volunteers from the local Red Cross chapter.

Additional services for those affected by this tragedy continue to be available at mental health program sites throughout the Santa Monica area.

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INTERNAL SERVICES: Arthur Jacob, Guadalupe Martinez

MENTAL HEALTH: Anacleto H. Cadano

PROBATION: William D. McKinsey, Beverly J. Smith

PUBLIC SOCIAL SERVICES: Elma J. Clark, Frances Ipsen, Marguerite C. Maxey

PUBLIC WORKS: Elnora Simon

REGISTRAR-RECORDER/COUNTY CLERK: Maria L. Nuno

SHERIFF: Raymond Costales, Herbert D. Koranek, Thomas M. O'Brien

SUPERIOR COURT: Martha M. Lopez

TREASURER & TAX COLLECTOR: Hanna S. Morcos

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Los Angeles County Museum of Art

5905 Wilshire Blvd.

(323) 857-6000

www.lacma.org

Through October 13 - Old Masters, Impressionists, and Moderns: French Masterworks from the Pushkin Museum, Moscow

Oct 5 – Jan 4, 2004 - The Circle of Bliss: Buddhist Meditational Art.

Music Center

135 N. Grand Avenue

(213) 628-2772

www.musiccenter.org

Ahmanson Theatre

Oct 8 - Dec 6 - Andrew Lloyd Webber's

Phantom of the Opera

Mark Taper Forum - Music Center

Oct 2 - Nov 9 - "Homebody/Kabul"

SUPERVISOR KNABE'S STATEMENT ON SEPTEMBER 11



September 11, 2001 will always be a fixed point in the life of America. The loss of so many lives left us to examine our own. Each of us was reminded that we are here only for a time, and these counted days should be filled with things that last and matter: love for our families, love for our neighbors, and for our country.

We resolved then to honor every last person lost. We owe them remembrance, and we owe them our best. We owe them and their children, and our own, the most enduring monument we can build: a world of liberty and security made possible by the way America leads, and by the way, we, as Americans, lead our lives.

The attack on our nation was an attack on the ideals that make us a nation. An attack on our deepest national conviction that every life is precious and every human being is born free. More than anything else, this separates us from the enemy we fight. We value every life, while our enemies value none. Not even the innocent, not even their own.

We cannot know all that lies ahead. Yet, we do know that we have been placed together in this moment. To live together, to stand together, and to serve each other and our country together. The duty we have been given, to preserve America and our freedom, is a privilege we all share.

I encourage each and every one of you to make September 11th your own personal patriot day. Make it a day to hold your own remembrances in honor of those who lost their lives and those who were left to continue on without them. A day to visit your church, temple, or mosque and give thanks for our freedoms and our privileges. And a day to make a difference in your neighborhood and community.

September 11, 2003 is a new day and a new milestone passed. Our mission goes on and our spirit endures. Take this day and make it a model for your children. For your actions today, and everyday, are what makes America great.



Department of Health Services Wins National Award for Disease Reporting Systems

The Department of Health Services (DHS) received a national award for its electronic reporting system for communicable diseases: Visual Confidential Morbidity Report (CMR). The National Association of Counties (NACo) honored DHS with a 2003 NACo Achievement Award, which recognizes counties for improving the management and services provided by the county. An awards luncheon recognizing the winners was held in Milwaukee on July 13.

“This innovative program has dramatically improved the health department’s ability to manage disease and outbreak investigations, from notification to resolution,” said Dr. Jonathan Fielding, director of Public Health and County Health Officer. “It was also instrumental in improving disease tracking and management during the 2000 Democratic Convention held in Los Angeles and the terrorist events of September 11.”

Under California law, health care providers are required to report more than eighty-five diseases or conditions; laboratories are required to report positive findings on 18 communicable diseases. Visual CMR enables

providers and labs to report them electronically or via the Internet. In addition, health department staff can access all data in the system in “real-time” in order to mount a timely public health response.

Launched in May 2000, Visual CMR has helped to eliminate problems associated with the county’s old reporting system, which relied on manual data entry. “The system has greatly improved the health department’s efficiency by reducing the average length of time to complete case investigations by more than 50 percent,” said Irene Culver, Enhanced Surveillance Project Manager for the health department’s Acute Communicable Disease Control (ACDC) unit. “Visual CMR has also allowed us to build strong partnerships with numerous public and private providers.”

As part of a Community Development Commission (CDC) funded initiative, Visual CMR was developed by the County’s Acute Communicable Disease Control unit and the Morbidity Central Reporting Unit, along with Atlas Development Corporation, a private software company.

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Brian Clark’s local McDonald’s provided breakfast for the children and volunteers. Steve Rauch, CEO of oil resources company PXP, provided lunches of beef, sausages, chicken, hotdogs and hamburgers barbecued on charcoal grills trucked in by the company and manned by caterers and company staff. SAESHE Advertising provided specially designed t-shirts. Other individuals and organizations contributing to the event included AAA; the Dole Company; Hansen Beverage Company; Los Angeles Department of Water and Power; Mattel, Inc.; Nestle; 7-Eleven; Smart & Final; Superior Super Warehouse; Unified Western Bakery; Wal*Mart; and Warehouse Shoe Sales.



Supervisor Burke (right) stopped to take a photo with (left to right) Dr. David Sanders, Director of the Department of Children and Family Services; Judge Mablean Ephriam, and a young guest, before helping to serve lunch.

Supervisor Antonovich Hosts Adoption Festival for Los Angeles County Foster Children

Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich, in collaboration with the Department of Children & Family Services and “Operation: Children,” sponsored the 4th annual Adoption Festival for County foster children on Saturday, August 9, at Veteran’s Memorial Community Regional Park in Sylmar.

“We have an obligation to the children under our care to find permanent, loving homes in order for them to become normal, productive citizens,” Antonovich said. “Children are the future, but if we don’t meet their needs today, they will not have a future.”

The Adoption Summer Festival is a multi-cultural celebration of adoption. In a friendly atmosphere, adoptive applicants who have approved adoption home studies are given the opportunity to interact with children eight years and older, along with their siblings, who are in need of adoptive families. The event is designed to match older children in foster care with families who are seeking to adopt children in the County of Los Angeles.



Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich is pictured with his son, Michael, Jr., and volunteers from Operation: Children, one of the sponsors of the Adoption Festival.

“We need to find adoptive homes for our children, especially the older children who may emancipate without the love, security and support of a family,” Antonovich said. “There are many older parents not willing to start at the infant stage that may prefer to adopt an older child to mentor or tutor.”

New Food Stamp Eligibility Web Site

Recognizing a need in the community, Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich recently introduced a motion that was unanimously carried, instructing the Department of Public Social Services (DPSS) to develop a link to a newly developed United States Department of Agriculture, Food & Nutrition Services Web site. This Web site offers interested persons the ability to determine whether they may be eligible to receive Food Stamp benefits, without going into a DPSS office.

The Food Stamp Program is designed to improve nutrition for low-income families and individuals by

increasing their food purchasing power. Some studies indicate that only about 50 percent of the potentially eligible households apply and receive benefits. While the Web site does not replace the need to file an application for Food Stamp benefits, it does provide a basic eligibility screening tool that will allow households to make a more informed decision about applying for benefits.

The Web site may be reached via link by going to www.ladpss.org or by going directly to the Federal Food Stamp Program Web site at:

<http://www.foodstamps-step1.usda.gov>.

Share It

Major Changes for Obtaining Certified Copies of Birth and Death Certificates, Effective July 1

Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk (RR/CC) Conny McCormack announced to County residents that “Effective July 1, a major change will take place that will require applicants to provide proof of identity when requesting certified copies of birth and death certificates.” The enactment of new legislation SB 247 (Chap. 914, Stats. 2002, pursuant to CA Health and Safety Code 103526) has significantly changed the process and specifies who can request certified copies of birth and death certificates. In the County of Los Angeles, the office of the RR/CC processes approximately 500,000 such requests annually, including roughly 500 mail requests daily. The requests by mail will suffer the biggest impact since those requests must include a formal notarized statement of the requestor’s identity and eligibility.

The California legislature identified the release of birth and death records as a vulnerable point in the rise in the occurrence of identity theft. The new legislation helps protect birth and death records from misuse by allowing only specific authorized individuals to receive a certified copy of a birth or death record.

Under the new legislation, individuals are permitted to receive a certified copy, after having first submitted a statement sworn under penalty of perjury that the requestor is an authorized person. Authorized persons include:

- The registrant or a parent or legal guardian of the registrant;
- A party entitled to receive the record as a result of a court order, or an attorney or a licensed adoption agency seeking the birth record in order to comply with the requirements of Section 3140 or 7603 of the Family Code;
- A member of a law enforcement agency or a representative of another governmental agency, as provided by law, who is conducting official business;
- A child, grandparent, grandchild, sibling, spouse or domestic partner of the registrant;
- An attorney representing the registrant or the registrant’s estate, or any person or agency empowered by statute or appointed by a court to act on behalf of the registrant or the registrant’s estate; and
- Any funeral director that orders certified copies of a death certificate on behalf of any individual specified in paragraphs (1) to (5), inclusive, of subdivision (a) of Section 7100 of the Health and Safety Code.

A certified copy of a birth record is required to obtain a driver’s license, passport, social security card and other services related to an individual’s identity. A certified copy of a death record may be required to obtain death benefits, claim insurance proceeds, notify social security and obtain other services related to an individual’s identity. Individuals not permitted to receive certified copies may receive an INFORMATIONAL COPY with the words “INFORMATIONAL, NOT A VALID DOCUMENT TO ESTABLISH IDENTITY” imprinted across the face of the copy. The RR/CC, as the custodian of vital records, has the responsibility on behalf of the citizens of Los Angeles County to safeguard the records from misuse.

Requirements of the new legislation are available on the department’s automated phone system by calling the RR/CC at (562) 462-2137 or at the RR/CC Web site www.lavote.net. Applications to request certified copies and Certificate of Identity forms are also available on the RR/CC Web site. The cost to obtain a certified copy from the RR/CC’s Office for a birth record is \$18 and the cost for a death record is \$13.

For further information, please contact the Birth, Death and Marriage Section of the RR/CC at (562) 462-2137.



Members of the Board

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Second District

Gloria Molina
First District

Zev Yaroslavsky
Third District

Don Knabe
Fourth District

Michael D. Antonovich
Fifth District

Michael J. Henry
Director of Personnel

Sandra A. Hoodye
Ombudsman/Community Liaison

Martina Abgaryan
Editor